GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3739
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2016
Gap between Demand and Supply
Lokhande Shri Sadashiv Kisan;Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gap between the demand and supply of power in the country can be bridged by optimum utilisation of the power generation capacity of the hydel power sector and if so, the details thereof and the stand of the Government in this regard;

(b) whether the construction work of hydel power projects in the country is facing a number of bottlenecks, both natural and man-made;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to remove these bottlenecks;

(d) whether the operational time period of the hydel power projects have been extended for increasing power generation and accordingly their status have been upgraded and if so, the details thereof for the last three years, project and State-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to frame a hydel power policy to meet the increasing demand for power and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other steps being taken by the Government to augment power generation capacity of the hydel power projects?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER,
COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) : Yes, Madam. The gap between demand and supply of power during the current year 2016-17 (April-October, 2016) in terms of energy is only 0.7%. One of the factors leading to this marginal demand - supply gap is the optimum utilization of generation capacity of the hydro power sector. Hydro Power Plants are optimally used during peak hours taking into consideration water availability, irrigation requirements etc.

(b) & (c) : Yes, Madam. Hydel power projects face a number of bottlenecks, both natural and man-made. The major natural bottlenecks encountered in hydel power projects are natural calamities, geological uncertainties, difficult terrain & poor accessibility, etc. The major manmade bottlenecks relate to land acquisition problems, local agitations / resistance including rehabilitation & resettlement issues, funds constraints, etc.

(d) : There is no proposal to increase the operational time period of the hydro electric projects.

(e) & (f) : A number of remedial measures have been undertaken by the Government to fully harness the hydropower potential in the country viz., provision of debt financing of longer tenure under National Electricity Policy, option of charging lower rate of depreciation vis-a-vis Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) norms, extending cost plus tariff regime for public and private sector hydro projects up to 15.08.2022 in Revised Tariff Policy, excluding hydro power from Renewable Purchase Obligation etc.

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